

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 173370
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13
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AID/PPC-DDALRYMPLE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
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PAGE 02 STATE 173370

AMEMBASSY MEXICO
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AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
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AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY ROME
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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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BRUSSELS FOR EC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, EAMR

SUBJECT: UN/WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) THIRD SESSION

REF: GENEVA 6127

1. ALTHOUGH THE OBSERVATIONS PRESENTED PAGRAPHS 2-4 BELOW
ARE PRIMARILY FOR POSTS' BACKGROUND, THEY MAY BE USED AS THE
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PAGE 03 STATE 173370

BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH APPROPRIATE FOREIGN OFFICIALS.
DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ON THE BASIS OF
A LETTER FROM SECRETARY BERGLAND WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN
OVERCOMING ADVERSE EFFECTS OF UNSATISFACTORY PREPARATORY
MEETING. THIS REPORT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH
MANILA 9792, BEING REPEATED, WHICH CONTAINS THE FINAL WFC
COMMUNIQUE, AND SECRETARY BERGLAND'S WFC STATEMENT, CARRIED
IN THE USIA WIRELESS FILE JUNE 20.

. THE US SHARES THE GENERAL VIEW THAT THE WFC'S THIRD
FESSION, HELD IN MANILA JUNE 20-24, 1977, WAS SUCCESSFUL.
FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS BODY ACHIEVED A CONSENSUS, AND
ITS FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE ENDORSED BY
THE UNGA. MOREOVER, ITS DELIBERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN AN
ATMOSPHERE REMARKABLY FREE OF BLOC POLITICS OR CONFRONTATION.
THESE RESULTS ABSURE THE NEAR-TERM VIABILITY OF THE ORGANI-
ZATION AND GIVE IT THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME ONE OF THE
PRIMARY FORA FOR CONTINUATION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE IN
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

3. THE UNITED STATES ENTERED THE THIRD SESSION WITH THREE
PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES, WHICH WERE IN LARGE PART ACHIEVED:

(A) HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT
DESPITE RECENT GOOD HARVESTS, THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR
COMPLACENCY ABOUT WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS. LONG-TERM PROBLEMS

OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION PERSIST; TRENDS INDICATE THEY COULD GROW EVEN GREATER; AND THE EMERGENCY CONDITIONS OF 1972-74 COULD RECUR IF ADVERSE WEATHER SHOULD OCCUR IN PARTICULAR REGIONS.

(B) STRESS WAS PLACED ON THE NEED FOR ALL NATIONS TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS IF FOOD PROBLEMS ARE TO BE SOLVED. THUS TOTAL INVESTMENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION MUST BE ACCELERATED AND ITS DISTRIBUTION IMPROVED TO ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION, ESPECIALLY THE NEEDIEST
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PAGE 04 STATE 173370

CITIZENS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. GREATER PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO NUTRITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ALL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING.

(C) THE US REAFFIRMED ITS WILLINGNESS TO HELP ADDRESS WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS. US INTENTIONS WERE DEMONSTRATED BOTH BY THE ATTENDANCE OF AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BERGLAND AND BY HIS STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTING THE NEW POLICIES WHICH HAVE RESULTED FROM SIX MONTHS OF EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW.

4. THE COUNCIL MEETING CAN BE VIEWED AS AN ADDITIONAL STEP IN A LONG SERIES OF NORTH-SOUTH MEETINGS DURING THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS IN WHICH THE THEME OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED. OVER THIS PERIOD IT IS CLEAR THAT SUBSTANTIAL RECONCILIATION OF POSITIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAS TAKEN PLACE. PRIMARILY AS A RESULT OF SUCH CONVERGING OF VIEWS THE THIRD SESSION WAS ABLE TO DISTILL FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDELINES OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A PROGRAM OF ACTION TO ELIMINATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. THIS PROGRAM CONTAINS REALISTIC PRINCIPLES WHICH PROVIDE A REASONABLE FRAMEWORK FOR FURTHER PROGRESS, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE AMENABLE TO RAPID IMPLEMENTATION.

"

5. (BEGIN LOU) OBSERVATIONS ON ROLES ASSUMED BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS PRESENTED IN SECTIONS 6-9 BELOW ARE FOR POSTS' INFORMATION ONLY.

6. EC COUNTRIES - EC MEMBERS TENDED TO APPROACH THE MEETING WITH SKEPTICISM, IF NOT CYNICISM. NO EC MINISTER ATTENDED, AND DELEGATIONS ADOPTED A GENERAL STANCE OF RESISTANCE TO ANY CHANGES BEYOND AGREEMENTS REACHED AT THE
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PAGE 05 STATE 173370

RECENTLY CONCLUDED CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

COOPERATION, INCLUDING CHANGES IN NUANCE OR TONE AS WELL AS SUBSTANCE. THIS DEFENSIVE POSTURE WAS PURSUED SO VIGOROUSLY IN THE COURSE OF DRAFTING THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE THAT IT EARNED REBUKE FROM WFC PRESIDENT TANCO AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY DELEGATES.

HOWEVER, EXCEPT FOR SOME LOSS OF FACE, THE EC EMERGED FROM THE SESSION UNSCATHED. IN THE END, THE EC COUNTRIES ACCEPTED A FEW LARGELY COSMETIC CONCESSIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR INSERT;ON OF QUALIFYING PHRASES OBVIATING MANDATORY ACTION AT STRATEGIC POINTS IN THE TEXT. THUS, THE EUROPEANS ACCEPTED EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO A GOAL OF REACHING A FOOD AID TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS OF CEREALS DURING 1977-78, BUT QUALIFIED THE DEGREE OF COMMITMENT WITH "BEST EFFORTS" LANGUAGE. SIMILARLY, THEY RELUCTANTLY ACCEPTED MILD BORTATORY LANGUAGE URGING INCREASED ACCESS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETS AND INTERIM MEASURES TO ASSURE CONTINUITY OF GRAIN SUPPLY WHILE EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO NEGOTIATE NEW INTERNATIONAL GRAINS AGREEMENT.

THERE WERE SHADES OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EC PARTICIPANTS, RANGING FROM THE SOMETIMES RELUCTANT ROLE OF THE UK AS EC SPOKESMAN TO THE VERY RIGID POSITION OF THE EC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE.

7. OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - FOR THE MOST PART JAPAN FOLLOWED EC BLOCKING CLOSELY, ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH EC RESERVATIONS AT THE CLOSE OF DEBATE AND REMOVING RESERVATIONS IN CONCERT DURING FINAL CLEARANCE \$? COMMUNIQUE. AT THE OPPOSITE EXTREME, SWEDEN ASSOCIATED CLOSELY WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRY POSITIONS AND DEMONSTRATED THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO THE PROCEEDINGS BY THE PRESENCE OF THEIR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. SWEDISH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 173370

PARTICIPATION WAS RELATIVELY LIMITED BECAUSE THEB;ENCE OF BLOCS NEGATED THE NEED FOR THEIR USUAL MEDIATORY ROLE.

CANADA AND AUSTRALIA TENDED TO FOLLOW CLOSELY THE LEAD OF THE US, WITH THE IMPORTANT EXCEPTION OF EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO UNILATERALLY CONVERT GRAIN STOCKS INTO RESERVES IN ADVANCE OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. THE CANADIAN MINISTER DID ATTEND.

CANADA, AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN ASKED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONCLUDING US STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE SESSION.

8. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - FOR THE MOST PART THE

PARTICIPATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WAS OVERSHADOWED AND CLOSELY CONTROLLED BY PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE MINISTER AND WFC PRESIDENT ARTURO TANCO. TANCO INTERVENED REPEATEDLY WITH INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES, MUTING THEIR EXTREME DEMANDS WHILE EFFECTIVELY REPRESENTING TO OTHERS THEIR CONCERNS.

AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS ACHIEVED THEIR ONLY APPARENT OBJECTIVE, INCLUSION OF SOME POSITIVE REFERENCE TO AGRICULTURAL INPUTS IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. AT THE SAME TIME, SEVERAL AFRICAN DELEGATES, PARTICULARLY KENYAN MINISTER NYAAGAH AND NIGERIA'S BUKAR SHAIB, (A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE FAO COUNCIL) ASSUMED THE ROLE OF STATESMEN DURING THE CRUCIAL DRAFTING SESSION; NYAGAH PERSONALLY WROTE MOST OF THE PREAMBLE, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES.

LATIN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION WAS ESSENTIALLY
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PAGE 07 STATE 173370

CONSTRUCTIVE BUT NOTABLY LOW-KEY, THEY HAVING APPARENTLY ABANDONED HOPES TO GAIN CONCESSIONS ON TRADE ISSUES AFTER THEIR NEARLY DISASTROUSLY UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT DURING THE MAY PREPARATORY MEETING. AS THE ONLY EXCEPTION, ARGENTINA PURSUED A VIGOROUS FORT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON FOOD SECURITY ISSUES BY PROPOSING ADOPTION OF A

PARAGRAPH COMMITTING ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS TO SHARING THE COSTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL RESERVES SYSTEM AS WELL AS SPECIAL EFFORTS TO ASSURE CONTINUITY OF CEREAL SUPPLIES TO POOR FOOD IMPORTERS IN ADVANCE OF A GRAINS AGREEMENT. THOUGH THE ARGENTINE EFFORT WAS SUPPORTED BY THE US AND OTHER DEVELOPED GRAIN EXPORTERS, IT SPUTTERED IN THE FACE OF ADAMANT EC OPPOSITION.

9. SOVIET-BLOC COUNTRIES - SOVIET INVOLVEMENT CONSTITUTED AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT DURING THE SESSION. SOVIETS CLAIMED THEY WERE GIVING ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOME 60 INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS, BUT PROVIDED NO SPECIFICS. DURING DRAFTING SESSION THEY PROPOSED THROUGH HUNGARIANS PARAGRAPHS FOR ADDITION TO PREAMBLE; ONE CITING HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES SUCH AS COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM AS CAUSE FOR HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION; ANOTHER CITING INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AS CONTRIBUTOR TO IMPROVED FOOD SITUATION; AND OTHERS REFERRING TO NEED FOR 10 PERCENT REDUCTION IN MILITARY BUDGETS TO RELEASE FUNDS FOR SOLVING FOOD PROBLEMS. HUNGARIANS PRIVATELY APOLOGIZED TO US REPRESENTATIVE FOR THEIR ROLE IN SUBMITTING AMENDMENTS. NONE OF THE PROPOSED PARAGRAPHS WAS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL ALTHOUGH WORDING ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMAMENTS DOES APPEAR IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE.

FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF FINAL COMMUNIQUE BY CONSENSUS,
SOVIETS MADE A PRO FORMA AND MUCH OUT OF PLACE STATEMENT
OUTLINING THEIR VIEWS ON FOOD POLICY ISSUES,E.G.: FOOD
PROBLEMS ARE RESULT OF FAILURE TO ADOPT SOCIALIST
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PAGE 08 STATE 173370

PRINCIPLES AND COULD BE HELPED BY DETENTE AND ARMS
REDUCTION: USSR IS WILLING TO COOPERATE ON FOOD SECURITY
PREFERABLY ON BILATERAL BASIS, BUT WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO
FULL STATISTICAL REPORTING; USSR IS WILLING TO EXTEND
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, BUT DOES NOT ACCEPT UNGA TARGET OF
0.7 PERCENT OF GNP.

IN SUM, SOVIETS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UNPREPARED
FOR A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL MEETING. THEIR FBW AT;EMRTS
TO INFLUENCE OUTCOME WERE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, ISOLATING
THEM FROM OTHER PARTICIPANTS. THE POSITIVE EFFECT OF THEIR
ASSOCIATING WITH THE CONSENSUS WAS NEGATED FULLY BY
THE RHETORIC OF THEIR FINAL STATEMENT.

POLAND MADE A CLOSING STATEMENT SIMILAR TO BUT Milder
THAN, THAT OF THE SOVIETS ON CAUSES OF PROBLEM, NEED FOR
PEACEFUL RELATIONSHIPS AMONG ALL COUNTRIES, AND DISCLAIMER
ON AID TARG OF 0.7 PERCENT OF GNP, BUT EXPRESSING THE
UNDERSTANDING THAT COMMUNIQUE WAS BEING ADOPTED BY
CONSENSUS.

KENYAW AGRICULTURE MINISTER NYAH INTERVENED
IMMEDIATELY AFTER SOVIET AND POLISH STATEMENTS TO EXPRESS
CONCERN THAT GREAT POWERS WERE TEMPTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TO ARM THEMSELVES AND NEGLECT PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION. THE FOCUS OF HIS COMMENT WAS CLEAR.

10. THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT, IN CONSULTATION
WITH THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, TO DECIDE THE SITE OF THE
4TH SESSION. TWO INVITATIONS (SUDAN AND ARGENTINA) HAVE
BEEN EXTENDED AND MEXICO MAY REPEAT ITS EARLIER OFFER

11. FOR GENEVA: IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, AGREE THAT US CO-
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PAGE 09 STATE 173370

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
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Type: TE
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